

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) Pulper device for waste paper material, characterized in that it comprises:

- a container for collecting said waste, having an inlet opening for said waste;
- at least one pressurized water nozzle which produces a jet of water which intercepts the

5 waste which falls into said container,

- and a first pump which removes the water and the waste from said container, said first pump being a chopper pump;

_____ a suction duct connected to said container which sucks air from inside said container.

2. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim + 31, characterized in that it comprises a first series of pressurized water nozzles and a second series of pressurized water nozzles, the jets produced by the nozzles of the first series and the nozzle jets produced by the second series having trajectories which intersect in a zone where said waste falls.

3. (Original) Device according to claim 2, characterized in that said nozzles have trajectories with different inclinations.

4. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 2 or 3, characterized in that two inclined surfaces for guiding the jets produced by the nozzles are associated with said first series and said second series of nozzles.

5. (Original) Device according to claim 4, characterized in that said inclined surfaces are

oriented approximately parallel to the trajectory of the jets produced by the respective nozzles.

6. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 4, characterized in that each of said surfaces extends from the respective series of nozzles as far as a respective terminal edge, the terminal edges of said two surfaces delimiting a passage for conveying the water and the waste paper material.

7. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 4, characterized in that said surfaces are flat.

8. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim ~~4~~ 31, characterized in that said container has an elongated longitudinal extension, the inlet opening extending in the longitudinal direction of extension of said container.

9. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 2, characterized in that said container has an elongated upper opening, parallel to which said first and said second series of nozzles extend.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim ~~4~~ 31, characterized in that it comprises a recirculation duct between said first pump and the container, by means of which a part of the flow sucked in by said first pump is recirculated inside said container.

12. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 11, characterized in that the outlet of said recirculation duct is situated in a position approximately opposite an intake opening of said first pump.

13. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 11, characterized in that the outlet of said recirculation duct and the intake opening of said first pump are arranged approximately at the ends of the elongated longitudinal extension of said container.

14. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 12, characterized in that the bottom of said container is inclined downwardly and from the outlet of said recirculation duct toward the intake opening of said first pump.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 31, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein:
an inclined surface for guiding the jet of water is associated with said water nozzle;
said suction duct has suction openings arranged underneath ~~at least one of said two~~
inclined surfaces surface.

17. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 31, characterized in that said suction duct is connected to a separator for separating air from solid and/or liquid particles entrained in the air flow.

18. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim ~~1~~ 31, characterized in that it comprises a thickening station to which at least partly the mixture of water and waste paper material sucked by said first pump is conveyed and inside which the solid content of the mixture is increased, eliminating therefrom a part of the water content.

19. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 18, further comprising:

a recirculation duct connected to said first pump and said container, said first pump removing a first portion of the waste material and water from said container, and recirculating another portion of the waste material and water back into said container through said
5 recirculation duct;

a second pump, which conveys said first portion of the waste material and water sucked by said first pump toward said thickening station, is arranged along a delivery duct of said first pump.

20. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 18, characterized in that the mixture leaving said thickening station is conveyed to another container for subsequent conveying to a headbox associated with the paper production line and the water separated from said mixture is recycled.

21 - 27 (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) A device in accordance with claim ~~1~~ 31, wherein:

said first pump is a chopper pump, said chopper pump both pulverizes the waste paper

material in the water, and pumps the water and waste paper material simultaneously.

29. (Previously Presented) A device in accordance with claim 28, further comprising:

a recirculation duct connected to said chopper pump and said container, said chopper pump removing a portion of the waste material and water from said container, and recirculating another portion of the waste material and water back into said container through said
5 recirculation duct.

30. (Previously Presented) A device in accordance with claim 29, further comprising:

a first series of pressurized water nozzles and a second series of pressurized water nozzles, said first and second series of nozzle are arranged to produce jets having trajectories which intersect in a zone where the waste falls and exerting a pulping action on the waste.

31. (Currently Amended) A pulper device for waste paper material, characterized in that it comprises:

a container for collecting said waste, having an inlet opening for said waste;

at least one pressurized water nozzle which produces a jet of water which intercepts the
5 waste which falls into said container,

and a first pump which removes the water and the waste from said container; and

a suction duct connected to said container and which sucks air from inside said container.

32 - 35 (Cancelled)